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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of | : | Confirmation No.: 5141 |
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| Hiroyuki IKEUCHI et al. | : | Art Unit: 1796 |
| | : | |
| Serial No.: 10/577,355 | : | Examiner: S. Sastri |
| | : | |
| Filed: April 28, 2006 | : | |
| | : | |
| For: PARTICULATE WATER-ABSORBENT | : | |
| RESIN COMPOSITION AND ITS | : | |
| PRODUCTION PROCESS | : | |

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the March 9, 2010 Office Action in connection with the above-identified application. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 4-16

Claims 1 and 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0157318 to Brehm et al. Brehm et al. is cited for allegedly disclosing a water-absorbent resin as in the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Action does not establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Action has not demonstrated that it